

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1948

To award grants to establish Advanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Centers, which shall conduct outreach, technology transfer, development, and utilization programs in specific industries and geographic regions for the benefit of small- and medium-size manufacturers and businesses.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2007

Mr. VOINOVICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To award grants to establish Advanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Centers, which shall conduct outreach, technology transfer, development, and utilization programs in specific industries and geographic regions for the benefit of small- and medium-size manufacturers and businesses.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Blue Collar Computing
5 and Business Assistance Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **ADVANCED MULTIDISCIPLINARY COMPUTING**
 4 **SOFTWARE CENTER; CENTER.**—The terms “Ad-
 5 vanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Cen-
 6 ter” and “Center” mean a center created by an eli-
 7 gible entity with a grant awarded under section 3.

8 (2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
 9 ty” means any—

10 (A) nonprofit organization;

11 (B) consortium of nonprofit organizations;

12 or

13 (C) partnership between a for profit and a
 14 nonprofit organization.

15 (3) **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**—The term
 16 “nonprofit organization” means any organization
 17 that—

18 (A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the
 19 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

20 (B) is exempt from taxation under section
 21 501(a) of such Code.

22 (4) **SMALL BUSINESS OR MANUFACTURER.**—
 23 The term “small business or manufacturer” has the
 24 meaning given the term “small business concern” in
 25 section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 26 632(a)), including a small manufacturing concern.

1 (5) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
2 Secretary” means the Under Secretary for Tech-
3 nology of the Department of Commerce.

4 **SEC. 3. ADVANCED MULTIDISCIPLINARY COMPUTING SOFT-**
5 **WARE CENTER GRANTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall award
7 grants to eligible entities to establish up to 5 Advanced
8 Multidisciplinary Computing Software Centers throughout
9 the United States.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—Each Center established with grant
11 funds awarded under subsection (a) shall—

12 (1) conduct general outreach to small busi-
13 nesses and manufacturers in all industry sectors
14 within the geographic region assigned to the Center
15 by the Under Secretary; and

16 (2) conduct technology transfer, development,
17 and utilization programs for businesses throughout
18 the United States in the specific industry sector as-
19 signed to the Center by the Under Secretary.

20 (c) APPLICATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring
22 a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
23 tion to the Under Secretary at such time, in such
24 manner, and accompanied by such additional infor-

1 mation as the Under Secretary may reasonably re-
2 quire.

3 (2) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—Not
4 later than 6 months after the date of the enactment
5 of this Act, the Under Secretary shall publish the
6 application requirements referred to in paragraph
7 (1) in the Federal Register.

8 (3) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
9 under paragraph (1) shall—

10 (A) conform to the requirements prescribed
11 by the Under Secretary under this subsection;
12 and

13 (B) a proposal for the allocation of the
14 legal rights associated with any invention that
15 may result from the activities of the proposed
16 Center.

17 (4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In evaluating each
18 application submitted under paragraph (1) on the
19 basis of merit, the Under Secretary shall consider—

20 (A) the extent to which the eligible enti-
21 ty—

22 (i) has a partnership with nonprofit
23 organizations, businesses, software ven-
24 dors, and academia recognized for relevant
25 expertise in its selected industry sector;

(ii) uses State-funded academic super-computing centers and universities or colleges with expertise in the computational needs of the industry assigned to the eligible entity under subsection (b)(1);

(iii) has a history of working with small businesses and manufacturers;

(iv) has experience providing educational programs aimed at helping organizations adopt the use of high-performance computing and computational science;

(v) has partnerships with education or training organizations that can help educate future workers on the application of computational science to industry needs;

(vi) is accessible to businesses, academia, incubators, or other economic development organizations via high-speed networks; and

(vii) is capable of partnering with small businesses and manufacturers to enhance the ability of such entities to compete in the global marketplace;

(B) the ability of the eligible entity to enter successfully into collaborative agreements

1 with small businesses and manufacturers to ex-
2 periment with new high performance computing
3 and computational science technologies; and

4 (C) such other factors that the Under Sec-
5 retary considers relevant.

6 (d) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Under Secretary may
7 not award a grant under this section in an amount which
8 exceeds \$5,000,000 for any year of the grant period.

9 (e) DURATION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under
11 paragraph (2), a grant may not be awarded under
12 this section for a period exceeding 5 years.

13 (2) RENEWAL.—The Under Secretary may
14 renew any grant awarded under this section.

15 (f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary may
17 not award a grant under this section unless the eligi-
18 ble entity receiving such grant agrees to provide not
19 less than 50 percent of the capital and annual oper-
20 ating and maintenance funds required to create and
21 maintain the Center established with such grant
22 funds.

23 (2) FUNDING FROM OTHER FEDERAL, STATE,
24 OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—The funds pro-
25 vided by the eligible entity under paragraph (1) may

1 include amounts received by the eligible entity from
 2 the Federal Government (other than the Department
 3 of Commerce), a State, or a unit of local govern-
 4 ment.

5 (g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

6 The Under Secretary may establish a reasonable limita-
 7 tion on the portion of each grant awarded under this sec-
 8 tion that may be used for administrative expenses or other
 9 overhead costs.

10 (h) FEES AND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES
 11 AUTHORIZED.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Center established with a
 13 grant awarded under this section may, in accordance
 14 with regulations established by the Under Sec-
 15 retary—

16 (A) collect a nominal fee from a small
 17 business or manufacturer for a service provided
 18 under this section, if such fee is utilized for the
 19 budget and operation of the Center; and

20 (B) accept financial assistance from the
 21 Federal Government (other than the Depart-
 22 ment of Commerce) for capital costs and oper-
 23 ating budget expenses.

24 (2) CONDITION.—Any Center receiving finan-
 25 cial assistance from the Federal Government (other

1 than the Department of Commerce) may be selected,
2 and if selected shall be operated, in accordance with
3 this section.

4 **SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS.**

5 Grant funds received under section 3 shall be used
6 for the benefit of businesses in the industry sector des-
7 ignated by the Under Secretary under section 3(b)(1) to—

8 (1) create a repository of nonclassified, non-
9 proprietary new and existing federally funded soft-
10 ware and algorithms;

11 (2) test and validate software in the repository;

12 (3) determine when and how the industry sector
13 it serves could benefit from resources in the reposi-
14 tory;

15 (4) work with software vendors to commer-
16 cialize repository software and algorithms from the
17 repository;

18 (5) make software available to small businesses
19 and manufacturers where it has not been commer-
20 cialized by a software vendor;

21 (6) help software vendors, small businesses, and
22 manufacturers test or utilize the software on high-
23 performance computing systems; and

24 (7) maintain a research and outreach team that
25 will work with small businesses and manufacturers

1 to aid in the identification of software or computa-
2 tional science techniques which can be used to solve
3 challenging problems, or meet contemporary busi-
4 ness needs of such organizations.

5 **SEC. 5. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.**

6 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each eligible entity that re-
7 ceives a grant under section 3 shall submit an annual re-
8 port to the Under Secretary that describes—

9 (1) the goals of the Center established by the
10 eligible entity; and

11 (2) the progress made by the eligible entity in
12 achieving the purposes described in section 3(b).

13 (b) EVALUATION.—The Under Secretary shall estab-
14 lish a peer review committee, composed of representatives
15 from industry and academia, to review the goals and
16 progress made by each Center during the grant period.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
19 priated \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008
20 through 2012 to carry out this Act.

21 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated pursuant to
22 subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

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